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ABSTRACT

Designed as a teacher resource, the booklet contains nine short lessons related to events in United States history that are remembered in August: the birthday of Francis Scott Key, composer of the national anthem (August 1); the first United States census (August 1); the birthday of Herbert Hoover, 31st President (August 2); the birthday of Julian E. Blanco, Puerto Rican statesman (August 14); the passage of the Social Security Act (August 14); the birthday of Davy Crockett, frontiersman and Congressman (August 17); the birthday of Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President (August 20); the passage of Women's Suffrage, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution (August 26); and the birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President (August 27). Each lesson includes one or two pages of information about the person or event remembered, as well as a creative activity and word games based on the lesson. Also included are a calendar of 24 August historical events and information about the month of August, the popular August sport of boardsailing, and voting in Connecticut. (SB)

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What's Happening

in August?

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CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY ETHNIC/ARTS PROJECT

CONNECTICUT MIGRATORY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

ETHNIC/ARTS COMPONENT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST?

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"What's Happening?" is designed as a resource for teachers' use only.

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What's Happening in August?

1 Frances Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," born 1779.
First U.S. Census completed, 1790.
Herman Melville, American author, born 1819.
Colorado became 38th state, 1876.

3 Christopher Columbus began his famous voyage from Spain to the New World, 1492.

4 John Peter Zenger acquitted of libel, 1735.

6 Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, 1945.

7 Robert Fulton's steamboat, the Clermont, sailed up the Hudson River, 1807.
First Lincoln penny issued, 1909.

9 Richard M. Nixon resigned as President, 1974.

10 Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the U.S., born 1874.
Missouri became 24th state, 1821.

14 Japan surrendered to Allies ending World War II, 1945.
The Social Security Act in the United States was approved in 1935.
Julian E. Blanco, jurist, born 1830.

15 Panama Canal opened to traffic, 1914.

17 Davy Crockett, American frontiersman, born 1786.

19 Orville Wright, inventor, born 1871.
American ship, Constitution, defeats British ship, Guerriere, in naval battle, 1812.

20 Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President of U.S., born 1833.

21 Hawaii became 50th state, 1959.

26 19th Amendment to U.S. Constitution gave women right to vote, 1920.

27 Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President of the U.S., born 1908.

29 Oliver Wendell Holmes, American doctor and writer, born 1809.

August

August, the eighth month of the year, was named in honor of Augustus, the first Roman emperor. It was during the reign of Augustus that Jesus Christ was born.

August was originally the sixth month in the early Roman calendar and had only 30 days. But when the emperor Augustus renamed the month in honor of himself, he also lengthened it to 31 days.

Summer is at its peak during this month. Some of the hottest days in the Northern Hemisphere have been recorded during August. Yet August also signals that summer is coming to an end. Many birds have already begun to gather for their migrations to warmer regions.

August is also the last complete month of summer vacation before children must return to school. Families are enjoying their last days at beaches, parks, and other recreational areas. In fact, popular vacation areas are often their busiest during this month.

Unfortunately, with summer nearing an end, the weather is beginning to change in some places. For people living along the Atlantic Coast, August means that it is time to start watching for hurricanes.

The flower of the month is the poppy. The birthstone for August is the sardonyx.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
The New Book of Knowledge

Creative Activity: Have each student write a short essay explaining why birds fly south. Discuss what other animals do as summer comes to an end. Why?

Word Game: The last two or three letters in each word are missing. Add the missin letters to complete each word.

1. The month of Aug- - -.
2. The eigh- - month.
3. Early Rom- - calendar.
4. The Northern Hemisph- - -.
5. Children go to sch- - -.
6. The poppy is a flo- - -.
7. The sardonyx is this month's birthst- - -.
8. Augustus was the first Roman empe- - -.
9. During the reign of Augustus, Jes- - was born.
10. Along the Atlantic Coast, people start watching for hurrica- - -.

ANSWERS: 1-AugUST 2-eighTH 3- RomAN 4-HemisphERE 5-schOOL 6-flOWER
7-birthstONE 8-empeROR 9-JesUS 10-hurricaNES

New Word: MIGRATE

Have each student look the word up in a dictionary and then use it in a sentence. Also have each student try to think of as many words that are similar in meaning to MIGRATE. The student with the most synonyms is the winner.

Francis Scott Key

Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," was born on August 1, 1779, in Frederick County, Maryland. After his education at St. Johns College in Annapolis, Maryland, Key became a lawyer. By 1833, he had become district attorney for the District of Columbia. Although Key was a lawyer by profession, he also enjoyed writing poetry on the side.

Key was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner" by events that took place during the War of 1812. In September of 1814, Key boarded a British ship to arrange the release of William Beanes, a friend of Key's captured by the British. While aboard the British vessel, Key witnessed the British warships bombard Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor.

All through the night of September 13, 1814, Key watched helplessly as his brave countrymen withstood the fierce shelling from the British ships. When morning had come, Key saw to his joy and relief that the American flag was still flying over the fort. Key quickly wrote a poem to express his happiness. He set the words to the tune of a popular English drinking song. Key's song was soon popular throughout America. In 1931, Congress officially adopted "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem.

As America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is now sung during most official and patriotic occasions. Like all patriotic songs, singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" helps make people feel good about their country. Feelings of loyalty and love of country are often inspired when singing such patriotic songs.

The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia and The New Book of Knowledge

Creative Activity: After studying the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner," let each student write a class or school song that tells a story. Have the students choose their favorite song among the entries.

Word Game: #1 Unscramble the words.

1. NATOINAL 2. TANHEM 3. YEK 4. GOSN 5. LAWEYR 6. RTSA
7. SPAGNELD 8. BANERN 9. TOFR 10. HSIP

ANSWERS: 1-NATIONAL 2-ANTHEM 3-KEY 4-SONG 5-LAWYER 6-STAR 7-SPANGLED 8-BANNER 9-FORT 10-SHIP

Word Game: #2 Match a word or phrase from Column B that is similar in meaning to a word in Column A.

Column A	Column B
1. lawyer	a. covered or decorated with glittering objects or designs or patterns.
2. ship	b. a flag or piece of cloth, or strip of paper bearing a design or motto or advertisement.
3. fort	c. boat
4. spangled	d. an enclosed outpost, place or building used for military defense.
5. banner	e. attorney
6. anthem	f. a song of praise or devotion
7. verse	g. to take prisoner
8. harbor	h. poetry
9. bombard	i. a place of shelter or safety where sea vessels can dock.
10. capture	j. to shell with cannon fire or other weapons.

ANSWERS: 1-e, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a, 5-b, 6-f, 7-h, 8-i, 9-j, 10-g.

The Census - August 2

The United States government, in 1790, authorized the first census to take place in the new nation. The government wanted the census figures mainly for taxing purposes and to determine the size of the congressional delegation of each state.

On August 2, 1790, the process began and it took eighteen months to complete. At that time, about four million people lived scattered across the various states of the new under-developed nation.

Riders on horseback were sent out as enumerators to count the population. Many citizens refused to cooperate with these enumerators, because they wanted to know how the government was going to use the information it was collecting.

Actually, the first census gathered very little information. The census workers were counting, a) the free people, b) slaves, and c) free men under sixteen and free men over sixteen. They also collected data on the sex, color of the free people and the name and address of the head of the household.

History of the Census

The history of the census dates back to the Roman Empire. The Romans used enumerators that prepared lists of people and property. These lists were used to levy taxes and the recruitment of men for the military service. The word census is derived from the Latin word censere meaning to appraise.

The Census in the United States

The United States Census Agency conducts several census: agriculture, business, construction, government, housing, mining industry, population, and transportation.

The Census Agency conducts a Population Census every five years when the years end on five or zero, such as 1985, 1990. The population census collects information about the people in the country. Some of the information obtained includes: age, education level, kind of employment, income, race, sex, etc.

Housing Census

A Housing Census is conducted every ten years. Information is collected on every housing unit: the year of construction, financing of the unit, number of rooms, condition of unit, televisions, etc. The first housing census in the country was conducted in 1940.

Agriculture Census

The first Agriculture Census was taken in 1840 and is conducted every five years. The following information is solicited: number of farms, type of crops, amount of fertilizer used, number of people employed in the growing and harvesting of the crops, and how much farmland benefits from irrigation systems, etc.

Government Census

Every five years, the Census Agency collects information related to the different units that make up the local government. Some of the information requested includes: form of government, number of employees, financial arrangements at the local level, etc. The Government Census, in this area, began in 1850.

Other Census Information

Every five years, the agency conducts a census to determine the needs of businesses, factories, miring and the transportation industry. The main reason for collecting this information is to learn about the production and resources of the various industries. The information collected includes: different forms of property, business volume, size of payroll, quantity and type of equipment in use.

No modern country can begin to plan its development without the information collected by a Census Agency. Each State needs the information collected by the Census Agency to determine the size of their congressional delegation, and their share of the federal income.

Most people refuse to cooperate with the Census Agency simply because they are not fully aware of how the requested information affects them and their communities. Many states and municipalities do not receive their fair share of money because not enough information was gathered in the census.

Herbert Hoover

There were two important Hoovers in American history: J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director, and Herbert Clark Hoover, the 31st President of the United States (1929-1933). Herbert Clark Hoover never planned to become President. It practically happened by accident. Hoover was a successful businessman and mining engineer. Suddenly, World War I started. Hoover was in London, England at the time. While there, he took charge of providing food to the masses of starving people in Europe.

When he returned to America, Hoover was made food administrator for the United States. By the time the war had ended, Hoover had become one of the most popular men in America. President Harding appointed him Secretary of Commerce. After President Harding died, in 1923, President Coolidge reappointed Hoover to the same cabinet position.

In 1928, the Republicans wisely nominated him for the Presidency. He was as popular as ever. Running against Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York-Hoover won the election by a landslide. In fact, up to that time, no other President had been elected with as large a majority. Hoover received 444 electoral votes to only 87 for Smith. The popular vote was over 21 million for Hoover to 15 million for Smith.

America was happy with its new President. And the country seemed headed for years of economic prosperity. Unfortunately for President Hoover, in October of 1929, less than a year after he became President, the stock market crashed. Suddenly, the United States was plunged into a terrible depression. And hard times would last for many years.

By the time Hoover's term in office had ended, the depression had gotten worse not better. Millions of people were unemployed. Banks were failing. Hard times were everywhere. And everywhere, people were blaming Hoover.

Nevertheless, Hoover chose to run for re-election in 1932. His opponent was Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt won by a landslide as big as the victory that had elected Hoover in 1928.

20 21

Although Hoover was President during one of the worst periods in America's history, it should be remembered that President Hoover was a highly skilled executive and a man of honor. He deeply cared for his country. In truth, he had a better working knowledge and understanding of both public and foreign affairs than the previous two presidents, Harding and Coolidge.

Hoover always had high hopes and good intentions for the nation he led. He always did what he thought was best for the country. Indeed to this day, many people believe Hoover was an excellent chief executive who just happened to become President at one of the worst times in history.

Hoover was born on August 10, 1874, in Iowa. He died October 20, 1964, in New York City.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
The New Book of Knowledge
The Hammond Almanac 1983
Chamber's Biographical Dictionary

Creative Activity: Have each student write a short essay comparing today's economic problems with the "Great Depression." Discuss.

Word Game: TRUE or FALSE

1. After his term as President, Herbert Hoover later became director of the FBI.
2. J. Edgar Hoover was the 31st President of the United States.
3. The stock market crashed because Hoover was elected President.
4. The stock market crash was just the beginning of the "Great Depression."
5. Before Hoover became President, he was a successful politician.
6. President Harding appointed Hoover Secretary of Defense.
7. Hoover became President after President Harding.
8. Hoover ran for the Presidency against Alfred E. Newman.
9. In 1932, Hoover ran for President against Teddy Roosevelt.
10. Hoover won by a landslide against Roosevelt.

ANSWERS: 1-False. J. Edgar Hoover 2-False. Herbert Hoover 3-False 4-True
5-False. A successful businessman and mining engineer 6-False. Secretary of Commerce 7-False. After Coolidge. 8-False. Alfred E. Smith 9-False. Franklin D. Roosevelt 10-False. Hoover lost by a landslide.

Julian E. Blanco

Julian E. Blanco was born August 14, 1830 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He attended school in a Jesuit Seminary but was unable to continue his studies because of his economic situation. Therefore, Julian had to work to support himself.

Although he did not possess a degree, he became a very respected jurist whose opinion was consulted in many cases. His law skills were acquired while working with two noteworthy lawyers on the island.

Julian E. Blanco was persecuted for his liberal ideas. The government expelled him from the island in 1858. Then, two years later, he returned when a general amnesty was declared. In 1867, the government decided to expell him again because of the June 7 insurrection, although he did not participate.

His return coincided with the Lares uprising and again he was arrested and sent to Spain. Upon returning, the governor informed him that his name was on a list of people who would be sent to Cuba.

Julian was named advisor to the administration, when the civil government was separated from the military in Puerto Rico. Eventually, he became Secretary of the Treasury in the new government.

He dedicated his life to the fight for freedom of his people. On December 9, 1905, Julian E. Blanco died.

Sources: 100 Biografias de Puertorriquenos Ilustres
By Federico Ribes Tovar

Translated by Leonor Toro

Social Security - August 14

The Social Security Act is a government program that provides cash payments and medical care to individuals. Almost everyone in the United States receive their social security protection from the Social Security Act of 1935.

There are three basic types of social security payments: (1) social insurance, (2) subsidized voluntary insurance, and (3) public assistance. Social Security payments are based on the contributions (taxes) paid by workers and employers. Benefit payments are made to those that meet certain requirements.

Subsidized voluntary insurance is a program which permits a person to buy a policy and the government pays part of the costs.

Public assistance involves government payments from the general revenues based on the individual's need.

Social Security

The social insurance program in the country covers: (1) old age, survivors and disability benefits, (2) hospital insurance, (3) unemployment insurance, (4) workers compensation, and (5) sickness insurance.

Coverage

The Social Security Act covers about 90% of all workers in the nation. Coverage is compulsory for most people. Some workers are not covered, such as: certain government employees, farm and domestic workers who do not have steady employment and self-employed people who earn less than $400.00 a year.

Social Security Benefits

Benefits are paid to workers and their dependents, to disabled workers and their dependents, and to survivors of workers who have died. Except for lump-sum death payments, benefits are paid monthly.

Workers may receive old age benefits if they are 62 or older and retired from full time employment. Since 1981, the government considered a person retired if his earnings did not exceed $5,500 at 65 or older. Since 1982, any individual seventy years or older is considered totally retired and there is no limit on the amount of money they can earn. A worker can retire at sixty-two and receive 80% of his full benefits for the rest of his life.

In 1981, the smallest benefit a worker could receive at age 65 was $153.00 a month; and the largest was $677.00. The worker's family gets additional benefits if it includes a wife 62 or older, a child under 18 or disabled, or a child 18-21 and in school. The normal benefit for each dependent is half of the worker's benefit.

The amount of a person's benefit depends only on average earnings, not on length of coverage or contributions to the program. However, the length of time a worker has been covered may affect his average earnings. Lower-paid workers receive benefits that are larger in proportion to their earnings than those received by higher paid workers.

Eligibilty

Benefits paid to a disabled worker, old age benefit and dependants are based on certain requirements that are part of the law. These requirements establish if a person is eligible to receive benefits.

Payments

The government does not automatically pay social security benefits when workers retire, become disabled, or die. A claim must be filed at one of the district offices of the Social Secuirty Administration.

Payments to Uninsured Persons

In early 1981, special benefits of $105.00 ($158.00 for married couples) applied for certain uninsured persons who became 72 before 1968, provided they did not get public assistance. The money for these benefits came from general revenues.

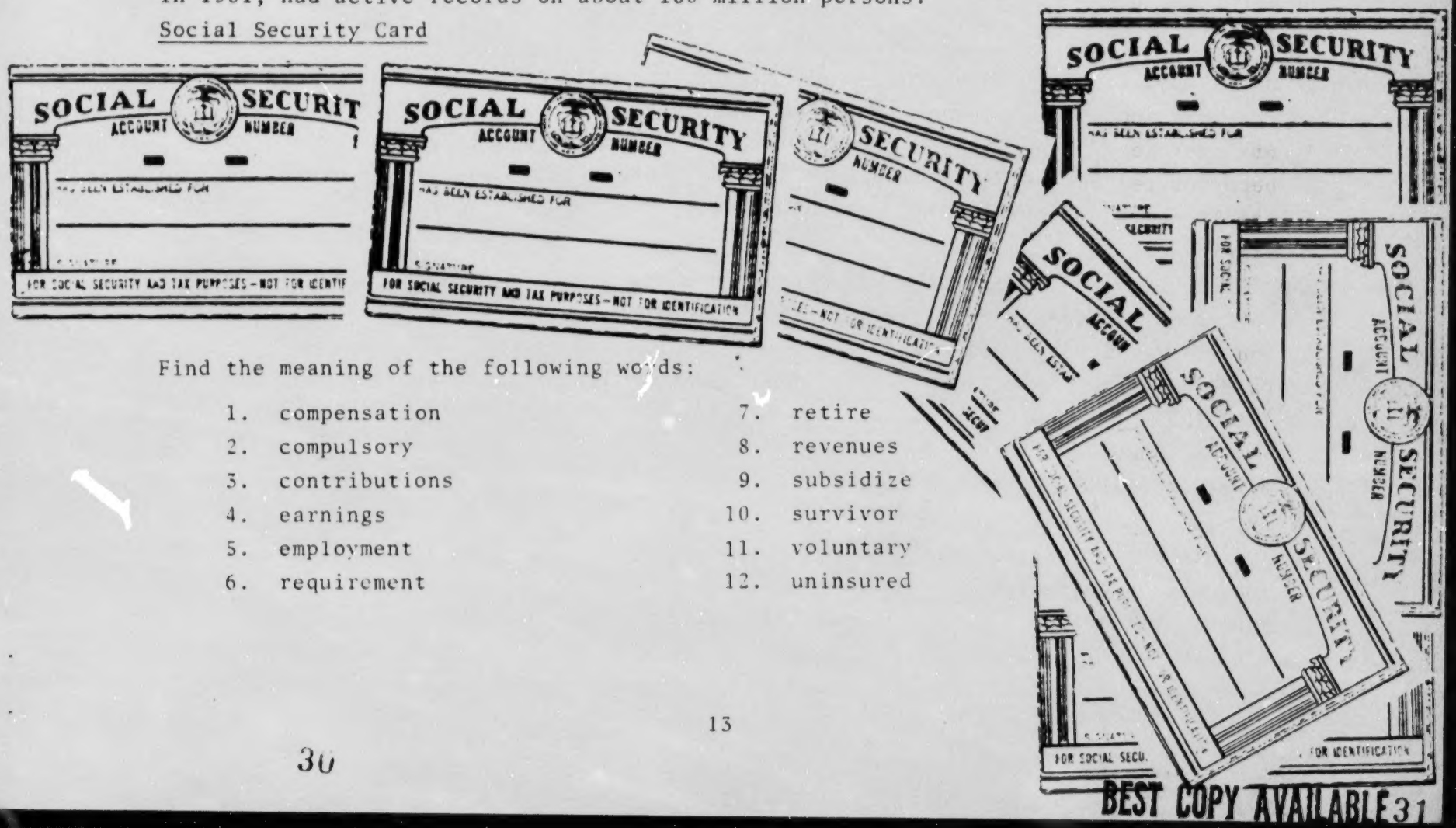
Financing

A payroll tax shared equally by the employer and employee finances the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and Hospital Insurance Programs.

Administration

Every person covered under social security has an account number. An employer reports the number and earnings to the Social Security Administration. The agency, in 1981, had active records on about 160 million persons.

Social Security Card



Find the meaning of the following words:

1. compensation
2. compulsory
3. contributions
4. earnings
5. employment
6. requirement
7. retire
8. revenues
9. subsidize
10. survivor
11. voluntary
12. uninsured

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Amendment 19 - Women's Suffrage

Amendments were introduced in Congress for over forty years giving women the right to vote and were always defeated. Amendment 19 was proposed on June 4, 1919 and was ratified on August 18, 1920.

Amendment 19

Section 1. The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
Section 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Today, a new amendment that will affect women is being considered, it is called the Equal Rights Amendment. It prohibits discrimination because of a person's sex. Congress approved a three year extension for its ratification. June 30, 1982, was the last day for ratification and it failed passage. The amendment was reintroduced in 1983.

Amendments

Amendments are additions to the Constitution. An amendment may be proposed by two-thirds of each house of Congress or by a national convention called by Congress. An amendment becomes part of the Constitution after being ratified either by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states or by conventions in three-fourths of the states. Congress decides which form of ratification should be used. State legislatures or conventions are given seven years in which to ratify most amendments.

To Register as a Voter in Connecticut:

1. You must be a United States citizen.
2. Be at least eighteen years old.
3. Be a bona fide resident of a Connecticut town.

Elections and Elective Offices

Every year is an election year in Connecticut. A schedule for local, state and federal offices is as follows:

November 1984, 1988, 1992, etc. (every four years)	President and Vice-President
November 1986, 1990, 1994, etc. (alternate even years)	Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, County Sheriff, Judge of Probate
November 1986, 1988, 1992, 1996 (most even years)	United States Senator, (Two States Senators are elected to staggered six year terms.)
November 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990 (even years, every two years)	United States Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Registrar of Voters, (some towns elect Registrar to four year term.)
May 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 (odd years, every two years)	Municiapl Offices (Selectmen, Town Clerk, local board) in some towns and boroughs.
November 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 (odd years, every two years)	Municipal Offices (Mayor, Council, Selectmen, Town Clerk, local boards, etc.) in most towns and cities.

Did you know that:

1. The President of the United States is not elected by popular vote.
2. In presidential elections, you are electing electors to the electoral college but, the name in the voting machine is that of the presidential candidates.
3. Women were given the right to vote in 1920, and in Puerto Rico, in 1932.
4. In many states, people had to pay a poll tax to vote.
5. A person convicted of a felony, forfeits his voting privilege.
6. Previously, a person had to be twenty-one years old to vote.

1. NAME (Last Name) (First Name) (Initial)	2. BONA FIDE RESIDENCE	
3. BIRTH DATE	4. BIRTHPLACE (Town & State) (Country)	5. SEX Male ☐ Female ☐
6. CITIZENSHIP (If foreign born) (Sec. 9-20a) ☐ By Naturalization ☐ Parent was a U.S. Citizen ☐ Derived through naturalization of parent or spouse	DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, If Requested (Sec. 9-20a) (Date) (Certificate No.) (Place)	
7. PREVIOUS VOTING RESIDENCE (If None, Write None)	8. NAME UNDER WHICH REGISTERED	9. Party Affiliation
OATH OF APPLICANT: I am a bonafide resident of the Town in "2", (a) the statements in this application are true and complete; (b) I am the person named as applicant herein and in documents, if any, submitted herewith as proof of citizenship; (c) my privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of crime.	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT X	
Subscribed and sworn to before me	DATE	TOWN BRIDGEPORT
SIGNATURE OF OFFICER ADMINISTERING OATH	TITLE ☐ Registrar of Voters ☐ Town Clerk	

ACTION BY ADMITTING OFFICIAL: The undersigned, having examined the qualifications of the applicant

☐ APPROVE the application, having found that the applicant possesses the qualifications for admission as an elector.

☐ DISAPPROVE the application, having found that the applicant does not possess the qualifications for admission as an elector for the reasons given below.

REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL

Name of Official .....

Title .....

PLEASE NOTE: Any applicant for admission as an elector whose application to a town clerk, assistant town clerk, registrar of voters, or deputy or assistant registrar of voters has been rejected by such official may apply for reexamination at any session of the board for admission of electors. The official so rejecting such application shall notify the applicant of his right to reexaminaion.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS AN ELECTOR FORM 1770-79 (SEE REVERSE SIDE)

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"Davy" Crockett

One of the most popular figures in American history was Davy Crockett. Davy Crockett ranks alongside Daniel Boone as one of this nation's greatest frontiersmen. Crockett's skills as a hunter, fighter, scout, and marksman became legendary. His many adventures made him extremely well-known and popular. In fact, even Crockett loved to tell tall-tales about himself.

One popular tale boasted of Davy's reputation as an expert shot. According to the story, a raccoon was hiding in a tree when he saw Davy load and aim his rifle. The raccoon, realizing that it didn't have a chance against the great Davy Crockett, said: "Don't shoot. I'll come down."

Born in Tennessee on August 17, 1786, young Crocket had little formal schooling. However, he quickly learned to fend for himself. He grew to be a strong and healthy lad. Stories say that even as a teenager, he was as tall and strong as a full grown man.

In 1813, Davy scouted for Andrew Jackson against the warring Creek Indians. He later served in the Tennessee militia where he soon became a colonel. Eventually, his immense popularity and reputation helped get him elected to Congress three times (from 1826 to 1835).

After his three terms in Congress, Davy traveled to San Antonio to help 400 Texans defend the Alamo against more than 5000 Mexican soldiers. On March 6, 1836, the Mexican soldiers stormed the Alamo. In the assault, Davy Crockett and the other defenders were all killed. Davy Crockett died a hero.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia and The New Book of Knowledge

Creative Activity: Do you like Davy Crockett? Why do you think he's such a popular figure in American history? Discuss with your students.

Word Game: Locate the words listed below in the word search puzzle. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backwards.

D A N I E L B O O N E A B
L C D C D E N O O C C A R
F F A G R H I T T E R M S
G E V L J O S N A I D N I
E E Y A A K C L L L M N S
N S M D N M N K L O E S R
D S I G D E O P E Q R T E
A E L N R X S S T T C K I
R N I O E I K U E E T E D
Y N T R W C C X L V W E L
X E I T Y O A E Z A B R O
C T A S D N J E T U O C S
F N A M S R E I T N R O F
S A N A N T O N I O G H I

Word List:

ALAMO
ANDREW
BOONE
CREEK
CROCKETT
DANIEL
DAVY
ELECT
FRONTIERSMAN
INDIANS
JACKSON
LAD
LEGENDARY
MEXICO
MILITIA
RACCOON
SAN ANTONIO
SCOUT
SOLDIERS
STRONG
TALE
TALL
TENNESSEE
TERMS
TEXANS

New Word: FRONTIERSMAN

Have each student look the word up in a dictionary and then use it in a sentence. Also have each student try to think of as many words that are similar in meaning to FRONTIERSMAN. The student with the most synonyms is the winner.

Benjamin Harrison

Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd President of the United States (1889-1893), was not the first Harrison to become President of this country. His grandfather, William Henry Harrison, was America's ninth President. What's more, his great grandfather (also named Benjamin Harrison) was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Even though Benjamin Harrison came from a distinguished line of ancestors, and was himself a highly intelligent and able man, he was never a popular President. In large measure, his cold and reserved personality was the problem. Indeed, when he ran for the Presidency as a Republican, the Democrats were quick to say that he was as "cold as an iceberg."

Despite his personality, Harrison won the election...primarily because the Democratic Party was divided on many issues. The Democratic candidate, President Grover Cleveland, who was running for re-election, actually won a plurality of the popular vote. Harrison was only elected President because he won a majority of the electoral vote.

While Harrison was President, the Sherman Anti-trust Act was passed by Congress to regulate monopolies and control prices. Unfortunately, not until Teddy Roosevelt became President, over 10 years hence, was the Act truly enforced. Congress also passed the unpopular McKinley Tariff which imposed record-high duties. The tariff also resulted in higher prices as well as an increase in the cost of living. Consequently, it came as no surprise that Harrison lost to Grover Cleveland in his bid for re-election in 1892. Cleveland, of course, was the same man that Harrison had defeated in the previous Presidential election.

After stepping down from the Presidency, Harrison spent many of his later years working as a lawyer and giving lectures. In 1898, he even represented Venezuela in a land dispute with Great Britain.

Benjamin Harrison was born on August 20, 1833 near North Bend, Ohio. He died March 13, 1901, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources: The World Book Encyclopedia
The New Book of Knowledge
The Hammond Almanac 1983

Creative Activity: Ask the students if they remember any of their ancestors. Discuss. Then show the students how to draw a "family tree" that includes their parents, their maternal and paternal grandparents and even their great-grandparents.

New word: ANCESTOR

Have each student look the word up in a dictionary and then use it in a sentence. Also have each student try to think of as many words that are similar in meaning to ANCESTOR. The student with the most synonyms is the winner.

Word Game: How many words can you make using the word ANCESTOR? (at least 75 words)

ace	cot	rate	scent	star
actor	crest	rent	score	stare
an	near	rest	scorn	stern
ant	neon	roast	sear	stone
art	nest	rose	seat	store
as	net	rot	sect	tan
aster	no	rote	sent	tar
astern	nor	sane	set	tear
ate	nose	sat	so	ten
cane	oar	scan	soar	toast
case	on	scant	son	toes
cast	or	scar	sort	ton
cat	race	scarce	snare	tore
cone	ran	scare	snore	trace
corn	rat	scat	stance	trance

Lyndon B. Johnson

On November 22, 1963, less than two hours after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Vice-President Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States (1963-1969). Although President Johnson was thrust from the vice-presidency to the presidency quite suddenly, he was well prepared for the job.

Born on August 27, 1908 near Stonewall, Texas, young Johnson spent his early years on a farm near the town of Johnson City (the town was named after Lyndon Johnson's grandfather). Johnson's mother, who knew the value of a good education, wished that young Lyndon would go to college after finishing high school.

At first, Lyndon balked at the idea of attending college. Lyndon decided that he would rather go to California. While there, he took jobs where he could find them. Eventually, he returned home and took his mother's and father's advice to get a good education.

Young Lyndon chose to major in history at Southwest Texas State Teachers College. He was soon leading the college debating team and editing the college newspaper. After he graduated, Lyndon Johnson became a public school teacher. It was during this same period that he took a serious interest in politics.

In 1937, after several public service jobs, Johnson felt that he was ready to become a candidate for Congress. Yes, he won the election and he went on to get re-elected five times in a row.

In 1948, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. The Korean War was raging. To investigate defense expenditures and to increase efficiency, Johnson helped organize the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee. As its chairman, Johnson received national exposure and earned the respect of other Senators.

By 1954, he had become the youngest Senator to be named minority floor leader. He later became majority floor leader, when his party gained control of the Senate. In 1960, with his success and popularity in the Senate at its peak, it was almost inevitable that he would be nominated for vice-president. The presidential nominee was

John F. Kennedy. After they won the election and took office, Johnson worked hard as Vice-President. When President Kennedy was assassinated, Vice-President Johnson was well prepared for the immense responsibilities that would soon be his. Years of experience in public service made him a skilled leader. Immediately, he acted to reassure a stunned nation and world.

He asked for swift passage of President Kennedy's program of legislation. He met with international leaders. He established a presidential commission (headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren) to investigate the assassination. On January 8, 1964, he called for a vast new program of legislation, which he called the "Great Society" program. It included proposals to reduce taxes, many civil rights bills, an anti-poverty program (that declared "war on poverty"), Medicare, and federal aid to education.

In the 1964 Presidential elections, Johnson ran for a full term as President. He won by a landslide. His victory over Senator Barry Goldwater was the most lop-sided presidential election in American history.

In 1965, Congress passed many of President Johnson's "Great Society" proposals, including Medicare (insurance for the elderly), the establishment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (designed to protect the voting rights of Black Americans). Also during his administration, a civil rights bill was passed (in 1968) that made guarantees of open housing.

On another front, the war in Vietnam was already major news when Johnson took office as President. Two of his toughest decisions were to increase the number of American troops in Vietnam and to begin bombing targets in North Vietnam. This was a dark and highly emotional period in American's history. It was a time when Americans became divided over many issues. It was the time when public protests began to mount.

On March 31, 1968, President Johnson announced a partial halt to the bombing in North Vietnam. He also made known that he would not seek re-election as President.

The next President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon, was inaugurated on January 20, 1969. President Johnson retired to his ranch in Texas, He died on January 22, 1973.

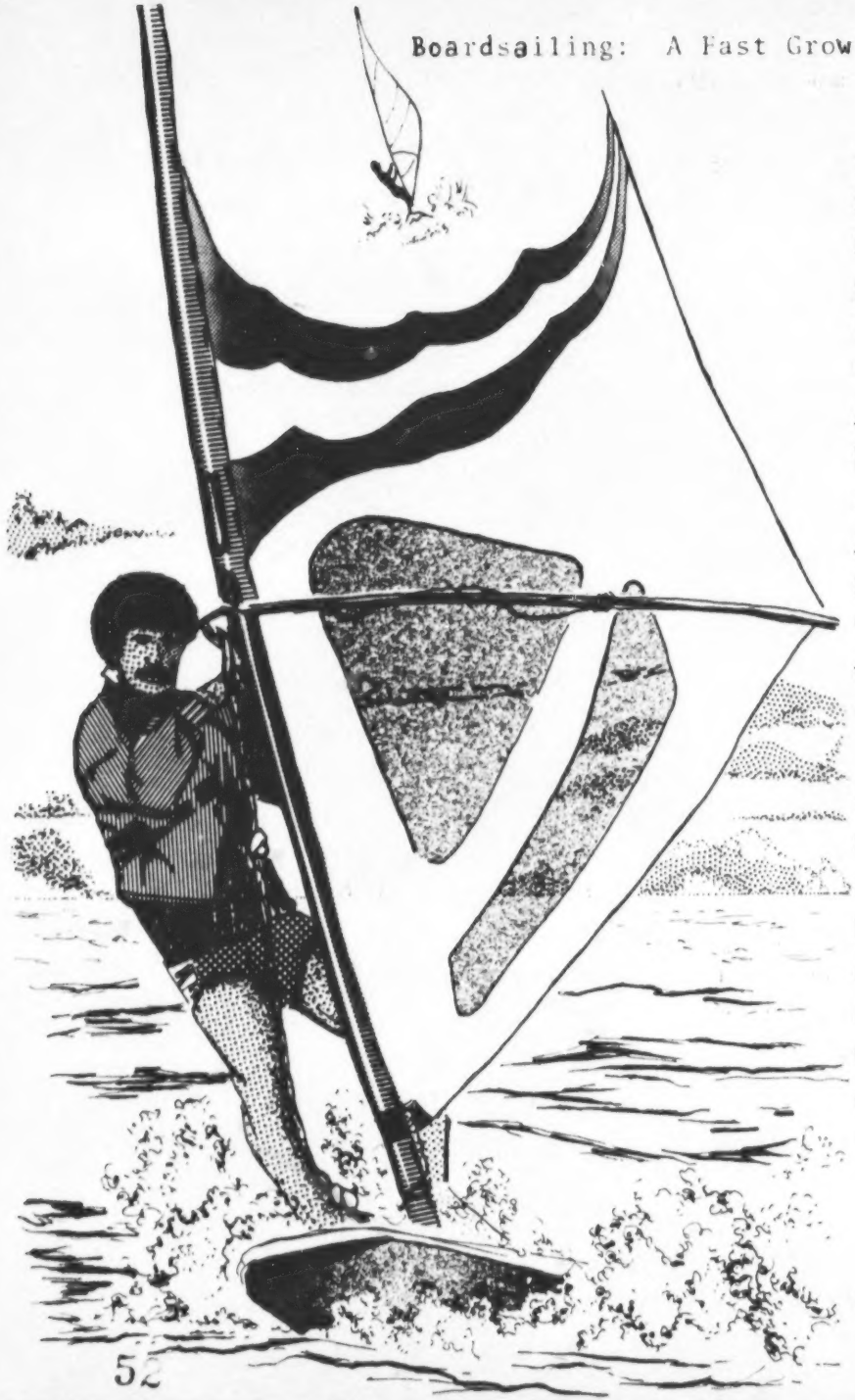
Sources: The New Book of Knowledge and The Hammond Almanac 1985

Creative Activity: Ask the students to pretend that they're all running for the Presidency of the United States. Have each student write a speech telling what he or she would do for America if elected President. Then let them take turns speaking in front of the class. Choose the winner.

Play Word Detective: In this word game, students can discover a new word and learn how to correctly use it in a sentence. Using the clues that are given, guess the secret word. Then use the word in a sentence. Note: As a classroom activity, you can give one clue at a time to the class. The first student to guess the secret word and use it correctly in a sentence is the winner. Give the winner a prize or award.

The Secret Word: ASSASSINATE

Clues:
1. The secret word is a verb and it has 11 letters.
2. Part of the word is a synonym for "donkey." (ass)
3. The first three letters of the word are repeated twice. (assass)
4. The secret word is similar in meaning to the word "murderer."
5. There are four s's in the word.
6. Part of the secret word is the past tense of the verb "to eat." (ate)
7. If you want to go to Heaven, you should never commit one of these. This is also part of the secret word. (sin)
8. It happened to President Kennedy.
9. The secret word starts with the letter A and ends with E.
10. It almost happened to President Reagan.



Boardsailing: A Fast Growing, Fast Action Watersport

Boardsailing is an exciting, relatively new watersport. Originating in the United States in the late 60's, the sport spread to Europe and Australia, and recently has gained popularity in the Connecticut area. According to its inventor, Jim Drake, boardsailing is "somewhere between skiing, surfing, and sailing." After reading several articles on the sport and having seen on television boardsailing in action, I decided to try my hand at this exciting sport. An article in the local newspaper directed me to Sail New Haven at Lighthouse Point, New Haven. There I met Ben and Dan, two young instructors who told me that for twenty-five dollars I could take two, one-hour lessons.

I arrived the next afternoon dressed in shorts and sneakers. I was more than a bit nervous. This, I thought, may not be as easy as it looks. Dan, a graduate of Wilbur Cross High School, assured me that today was a good day for sailboarding. The wind was not too strong and the beach was not crowded. The first lesson was on the sand with a simulated sailboard mounted on a swivel or pivot. Keeping my balance, using the correct stance was my first problem. My left

foot should be on the center line near the mast step; my right foot, at right angle on the daggerboard line. (See diagram A).

Another problem was getting the sail up without falling over backwards. With my body perpendicular to the sail, I had to pull up the sail using a knotted rope called the Uphaul. (See diagram B). Once the sail is up, I must act quickly. I had to grasp the Bumper, the end of the wishbone boom, with my left hand then deftly move my right hand down the boom, crossing again with the left hand. This was tricky!! In the water, Dan warned, it would be a lot trickier. Once the wind filled the sail, the board (and me on it) would lunge forward. If I held on tight, counterbalancing my body against the weight of the sail, I would be, in an instant, traveling as fast as the wind. (See diagram C). Easier said than done.

In the water things were a little different. Keeping my balance on the board in the water was not as difficult as I had expected. One way to overcome the fear of falling into the water is to deliberately fall into the water. I discovered that I do this rather well. Standing on the board at right angle to the sail, I pulled the sail from the water. A quick jerk on the uphaul, using my entire body in a backward stance with knees bent, the sail came up, much to my surprise. Grabbing the bumper of the wishbone boom was another story. In even a mild wind, stabilizing the board was at first shaky. After several tries, I managed to pull the sail from the water, grab the bumper, cross over with my arms, and for a brief two second, I glided across the waves. Then, I lost it!!!!!!! When in trouble, let go the back arm and the board stops; the sail flaps idly in the breeze. Beginners usually make the mistake of spending too much time falling into the water, or grabbing in vain at the bumper. This, unfortunately, tires you out, not to mention the fact that you waste a lot of time.

But I was determined to sail. Resting for a while on the board, I watched youngsters, male and female, glide by me effortlessly in the balmy breeze. A man about

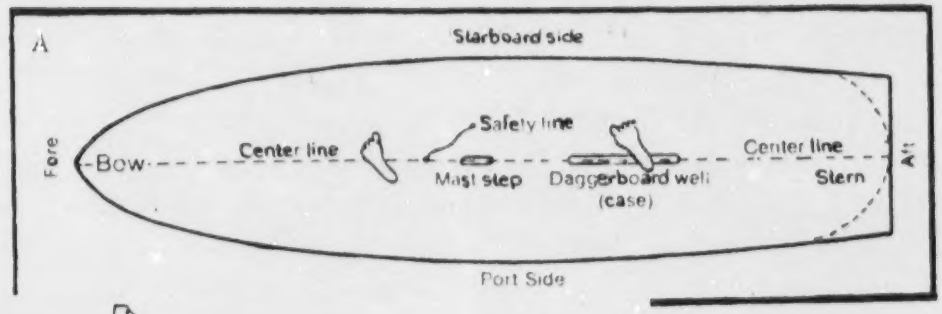
three times my age whizzed by like an ancient windjammer on the high seas. If they could do it, so could I. With a deep breath, a little coaxing from my instructor, I hoisted the sail, grabbed the bumper firmly, crossed my arms to the correct position and wow!!!!! I was mooooooooving! I sailed about 25 yards across the waves. (Without witnesses I would have said 50.) I felt for a few brief moments swept away by a mysterious force. The speed at which I moved did not awe me as much as the eery hush that whispered beneath my feet. I was sailing! Then, I let go. Why? Because I could not remember how to stop or steer the board. That will be in the next lesson. It takes about eight to ten hours of practice to master the sailboard. For the first hour, I felt I had done well. Next week I'll be back for lesson two. Maybe I'll meet you there?

Boardsailing is an expensive sport. Inexpensive boards start at about 60 dollars. But you don't have to be rich to share in the fun. Many beaches and lakes provide affordable rentals, as well as lessons. Sail New Haven offers free lessons to city youngsters during the summer. The instructors are able, polite, and patient. Life jackets are available for those, like myself, who are not strong swimmers. Don't just sit in the sand and watch, join in and sail!!!!!!

Sources:

1. "Sailing Lessons Available at Low Cost," New Haven Register by Debbie Neally. July, 1983.
2. Sail, July, 1983.
3. Student Boardsailing Handbook by Board and Sail Magazine.
4. WindRider Magazine, June, 1983.

For You To Do: Write a composition about the time you tried a new sport. If you have not tried one recently, do so and then write about your experience.



B

Equipment: Parts of the boat

The components of the hull:

1. Board or hull.
2. Daggerboard.
3. Skeg or fin.
4. Towing eye.

The components of the rig:

5. Universal.
6. Mast foot.
7. Mast.
8. Sail.
9. Wishbone boom.
10. Uphaul.
11. Inhaul.
12. Outhaul.
13. Downhaul.
14. Sail-to-board safety leash